

## **IOWA JUVENILE HOME PROTECTION TASK FORCE “Task Force”**

### **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES PENDING TASK FORCE APPROVAL SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

#### **TASK FORCE**

Jerry R. Foxhoven, Task Force Chair, Executive Director, Drake Legal Clinic  
Charles M. Palmer, Director, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Dr. Mark R. Peltan, Director, Behavioral Services, Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa  
Ron Stehl, MSW/LISW, Consultant  
Dr. Mary Stevens, Director of Special Education, Area Education Agency 267

#### **STAFF**

Mark Day, Interim Superintendent, Iowa Juvenile Home, Girls State Training School, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Eric DeTemmerman, Mental Health and Disability Services Division, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Jen Harbison, Policy Advisor, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Amy McCoy, Public Information Officer, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Rick Shults, Mental Health and Disability Services Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Human Services

#### **GUESTS**

Maureen Bailey  
Mike Barker, Children’s Square  
Josh Bronsink, Senate Republicans  
Linda Brundies, Office of Ombudsman  
Tom Cope, AOC  
Jeff Devine, Lutheran Services in Iowa  
Dean Fisher, House of Representatives  
Jim Friberg, Inspection and Appeals  
Christine Gradert, Family Resources  
Dave Heaton, State Representative  
Jane Hudson, Disability Rights IOWA  
Sandi Hurtado-Peters, Department of Management  
Mike Husak, Piney Ridge Center

## Guests (Continued)

Clark Kauffman, Des Moines Register  
Nathan Kirstein, Disability Rights IOWA  
Gretchen Kraemer, Attorney General's Office  
Latrice Lacey, ACLU of Iowa  
Marilyn Lantz, Juvenile Court Services  
Sue Lerdal, In Lieu of Urbandale  
Steve Michael, Department of Human Rights  
Morgan Miller, AFSCME  
Kristie Oliver, Coalition for Family and Children's Services  
John Pollak, Legislative Services Agency  
Beth Rydberg, Disability Rights IOWA  
Bob Sheehan, Four Oaks  
Aaron Todd, Senate Democrats  
Beverly Zylstra, Inspections and Appeals

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Jerry Foxhoven, Chair, called the Task Force meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at River Place in Des Moines. Mr. Foxhoven welcomed the Task Force members and meeting guests. September 18, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by the Task Force members. Meeting minutes were available in hard-copy to meeting attendees and can be found on the DHS facility web-site.

## **ROLL CALL**

All Task Force members were present.

## **PRIVATE PROVIDER PANEL**

A provider panel representing four private-sector organizations was present in a resource role to provide information to the Task Force. The individuals and organizations represented were as follows:

- Mike Barker, Vice President of Residential Treatment, Children's Square USA
- Jeff Devine, Director of Residential Services, Lutheran Services in Iowa
- Christine Gradert, Senior Vice President, Family Resources
- Robert Sheehan, Program Officer, Four Oaks

Mr. Foxhoven outlined the panel discussion by saying that the Task Force was looking for information such as the type of children referred to IJH, the reasons for referring children to IJH, and where the children would go if IJH was not available to them. Each of the panel members separately presented information about their respective organizations inter-mixed with and followed by questions and open discussion with the Task Force. Information and topics discussed by the panel and Task Force included:

- Physical plant characteristics of each organization including:
  - Number of locations
  - Square footage
  - Student capacity
  - Number of and condition of cottages
- Number and profile of children served including:
  - Average age of students
  - Sex of students
  - Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) and delinquent children
  - Voluntary versus involuntary placement
  - Diagnoses of children

- Average length of stay
  - Previous placements and discharge placements
- Type of services provided
  - PMIC
  - Residential
  - Shelter
- Funding received
- Type of staff
- Staffing ratios
- Staff training
- Education services
- Licensing
- Seclusion rooms, seclusion and restraint

## **JUVENILE COURT OFFICER PRESENTATION**

Marilyn Lantz, Juvenile Court Services, discussed the court system process for placing children at the Iowa Juvenile Home. Lantz identified the children the court typically works with as children who have broken the law with histories of assault, prior trauma, school failures, mental health conditions, and low self-esteem. Lantz identified child evaluations and placement as two important court related services provided by IJH. Lantz stated that the majority of children that have evaluations completed by IJH are not admitted there. Lantz said that Juvenile Court Services manages the waiting list for IJH and beds are assigned by district and population. She also stated that delinquent children have priority over CINA children when it comes to placement at IJH.

When asked by the Task Force if Lantz would recommend serving the three distinct populations of students at IJH (CINA, delinquent, boys and girls) Lantz stated that she would not serve the three populations in one facility. Lantz went on to identify a number of her priorities for a place of last stop for delinquent children which included Trauma Informed Care training, education and vocational training with more emphasis on females, substance abuse treatment, and transition services. Lantz concluded by saying that she believes the State has an obligation to provide a last stop for delinquent children.

## **DHS FIELD STAFF**

Pat Penning, Service Area Manager for the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), provided insight from the perspective of DHS field staff. Ms. Penning provided general demographic information for children that are commonly placed at the Iowa Juvenile Home from the service area she oversees. Information included average age, sex, diagnoses and behaviors, number of prior placements, etc.

The Task Force asked Ms. Penning how frequently DHS field staff is visiting children placed at IJH and Ms. Penning stated they are consistently visiting on a monthly basis and continually looking for and assessing when a lower level of care can be provided to the child. Ms. Penning was asked by the Task Force where the IJH placements would go if IJH were not available and she said that they would likely go to organizations out of state.

## **DISABILITY RIGHTS IOWA**

Jane Hudson, Executive Director of Disability Rights IOWA, presented from a power point presentation titled “Next Steps- Iowa Juvenile Home”. Handouts were available to everyone in attendance. Ms. Hudson covered the following:

- Information about Disability Rights Iowa
- How Disability Rights Iowa became involved in monitoring IJH.
- Ongoing activities of Disability Rights Iowa
- Survey that has been designed for the residents at IJH.
- Reviewed the eight original recommendations to Governor
  1. Define mission of the Juvenile Home.
  2. Establish Juvenile Home as one state in continuum of care.
  3. Rethink infrastructure
  4. Figure out how to better fund services and supports offered by Juvenile Home.
  5. Create enforceable regulations
  6. Stakeholder oversight panel
  7. Improve oversight by attorneys and guardians ad litem.
  8. Separate administration of school and residences.

## **COMMITTEE WORK-DISCUSSION**

Rick Shultz, Mental Health and Disability Services Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Human Services, first presented average unlocked and locked seclusion hours at IJH for June, July, and August of 2013. Data showed average unlocked and locked seclusion hours decreasing from June to August. Mr. Shultz also reviewed SFY 2013 discharge placements for CINA male, CINA female, and delinquent females. Data showed that 24 percent of IJH placements were to “Home” and delinquent males had a higher home placement than CINA students. A handout with the information presented was available to those in attendance.

Shultz then presented last placements and most common placements of children prior to being placed at IJH. Most common last placements directly prior to IJH were foster group care, detention, and shelters. Most common placements prior

to IJH overall were PMICs, foster group care, and shelters. A handout of this information was also available for those in attendance.

Lastly, Shultz presented four options for the IJH regarding specific populations that could be served identifying the positives and negatives with each option. A one-page handout identifying the options was available to those in attendance.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr. Foxhoven discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting, Monday, September 30, 2013, which included presentations by DHS on Medicaid and IJH funding, the Department of Education, employees of IJH as recommended by AFSCME, Iowa Task Force for Young Women, and Disability Rights IOWA. Foxhoven said that the Task Force would start the discussion of making recommendations following the third Task Force Meeting. The Task Force then discussed potential dates for an October meeting to review an initial draft of recommendations that Mr. Foxhoven would put together. The final Task Force meeting will be held October 7, 2013 at 1 p.m. The Task Force also discussed the potential of individual Task Force members speaking with IJH students before final recommendations are made. Details for this occurring were to be worked out with Task Force members and Interim Superintendent Mark Day.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jane Hudson, Disability Rights IOWA, made two comments. The first was that she would like to see the Task Force gather more detail regarding restraints and seclusion stating that there is more to restraint and seclusion use than just the amount and times it is used or not used. She identified Susan Smith of DHS as a valuable resource to provide more insight into additional aspects of restraint and seclusion. Secondly, Ms. Hudson asked what the admission process/requirements were at IJH. In response to her question Mark Day, Interim Superintendent, Iowa Juvenile Home, stated that admissions to IJH were all court ordered. Ms. Hudson asked how IJH was able to hold admissions and Mr. Day indicated that social workers are finding alternative placements or temporarily delaying admissions until issues surrounding the Task Force can be stabilized.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Iowa Juvenile Home Task Force will be Monday, September 30, 2013, at River Place, Conference Room 1, 2309 Euclid Avenue, in Des Moines.

## **ADJOURN**

The Task Force adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Eric W. DeTemmerman, DHS

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